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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO.

SUBJECT Interview with Rafael Hencho

DIST. 27 February 1947

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ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

Below is an account of an interview held in Madrid in early January 1947 with Rafael Henche, the Socialist leader. To what extent Henche's statements represent the consensus of members of the Alianza Nacional de Fuerzas Democráticas or of the Socialist Party is not clear. However, it is believed that the account will contribute to some extent to an understanding of the difficulties encountered in reaching agreement between the leftists and monarchists, and of the considerations entertained by the leftists. The content of the report is not graded, since Henche's statements represent opinion for the most part.

Q: What do you think of the proposal to constitute a government of national unity and what does the ANFD think of it?

A: Agreement on the establishment of such a government is difficult. Even viewing the matter from a distance, the problems on reaching accord are evident, and when a closer study is made, the problems seem almost insuperable. There are points on which we must be firm. For instance, we cannot accede to the proposition that the first government to succeed Franco should be charged with holding a plebiscite or elections.

Q: Is there agreement in the ANFD on the maintenance of this intransigent position?

A: There is. There were differences of opinion, but they no longer exist. We cannot agree to the formation of a government of hostile men, with the understanding that the holding of elections will be in their hands, which, in reality, is what is proposed.

Q: Is there not some means of resolving this difficulty?

A1 We have pointed out the means. Since the military men brought about the existing state of affairs, it is they who should take the steps necessary to eliminate Franco. With this suggestion the idea is compatible of forming a government - not of national unity - but merely provisional, which would have no other task than to release the political prisoners and to establish a situation under which the parties of the left could reorganize so that they could nominate representatives to a government of national unity. 25X1

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- Q: What is your opinion on the question of granting amnesty?
- A: The granting of amnesty should not be placed in the hands of a government which has been formed without freedom of assembly and freedom of the press. This is the second point on which we must be intransigent. There are crimes which were committed, especially at the beginning of the Civil War, that cannot go unpunished. There are actions of certain military men, many of which were undertaken against superior orders, which must be accounted for. The amnesty question must be set aside during the transition period. The military men who led the uprising should leave Spain until the provisional government is replaced.
- Q: It has been said that the provisional government had not been formed because the assent of the Socialists on certain points relative to its constitution had not been obtained by the ANPD. Will resolutions passed at the Socialist assembly to be held in Toulouse have some bearing on the plan to form a government to replace that of Franco?
- A: The meeting to be held in Toulouse is not to be a full assembly. It will deal only with the position to be adopted by the Socialist Party with regard to the Civil Government.

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